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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 809
By Cooper J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James A. Dillon, Jr. for his meritorious contributions to the citizens of Tennessee and Warren County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, James A. Dillon, Jr. is one such noteworthy individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Warren County, Mr. Dillon graduated from Warren County High School in 1946 and from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1950; and

WHEREAS, James Dillon entered the United States Army after his graduation from college and valiantly served his country in Korea until 1953; after leaving the military service, he remained in the Army Reserve for more than twenty years and retired as a full Colonel; and

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WHEREAS, upon returning to Warren County, Mr. Dillon decided to pursue a career in the insurance business with his father, Aud Dillon, and his uncle Hubert Dillon, who owned Dillon Insurance Agency, and subsequently attended The Hartford School of Insurance; and

WHEREAS, highly respected as a leader in his profession, James A. Dillon, Jr. served with acumen and alacrity for over thirty years in the insurance business, gradually moving into retirement from the firm shortly after its merger with Hoover & Son in 1986; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his remarkable professional excellence, Mr. Dillon has long devoted considerable time, talent, and resources to assisting his fellow man, and his contributions to countless organizations, individuals, and causes have been invaluable; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has lent his wisdom and expertise to the Board of Directors of City Bank & Trust Company, the Board of Directors of C B & T, Inc. and the Board of Directors for the Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Company; and

WHEREAS, he has also served ably and adroitly with the McMinnville Jaycees in various leadership positions; the Leadership McMinnville Board; the Warren County Records Board, which he served as Chairman; the Development Council, University of Tennessee Space Institute; and as the Foreman of the Warren County Grand Jury from 1985 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, James A. Dillon, Jr. received the Distinguished Citizen Award, presented by the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, for his immeasurable contributions to his community; and

WHEREAS, possessed with an immense store of knowledge regarding his native county's history, Mr. Dillon has proudly served as the Warren County Historian since 1979; and

WHEREAS, his book entitled *Warren County's Distinguished Personalities of the Tennessee Bicentennial 1800-1996* was recognized by the Tennessee Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, a writer for *Southern Standard*, James A. Dillon, Jr. is also a well-regarded and remarkably popular public speaker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dillon's incredible success is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of diligence and dedication and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated community servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, James A. Dillon, Jr. is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Phyllis "Sammye" Dillon; together, they are the proud parents of four daughters: Beth Moore, Adele Wilcher, Bonnie Nikolaus, and Laura Brown, who have all experienced great success in their various endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Dillon is an active member of Christ Family Church; and

WHEREAS, James A. Dillon, Jr. is wholly committed to the noble precepts of service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend James A. Dillon, Jr. for his remarkable legacy of service to the people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute Mr. Dillon for his considerable contributions to the State of Tennessee and the people of Warren County as the Historian of Warren County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.